Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EUR-12 /068 W

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R 071524Z MAR 75 FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3533 INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 2746

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT PGOV ET US

SUBJECT: THE "DIRG'S" MIND AND HEART AND THE US

- 1. FOLLOWING MASSIVE ADDIS DEMONSTRATIONS IN SUPPORT OF ETHIOPIAN RURAL LAND NATIONALIZATION, SOURCE BELIEVED RELIABLE IN MINPUBLIC HEALTH TOLD US STORY BELOW. WE REPORT IT BECAUSE WE THINK IT WELL ILLUSTRATES THE CONFLICT BETWEEN "DIRG'S" RADICAL INSTINCTS AND COOLER REASONED ASSESSMENT OF ETHIOPIAN INTERESTS INHERENT IN THIS COUNTRY'S TIES WITH THE US.
- 2. IT APPEARS THAT MINPUBLIC HEALTH (AS WELL AS PRESUMABLY OTHER EPMG ENTITIES) RECEIVED FROM "DIRG" A LIST OF 27 APPROVED SLOGANS FOR USE ON POSTERS, ETC., ON EVE OF DEMONSTRATION. THESE REPORTEDLY INCLUDED FOLLOWING THREE: "OUT WITH MAAG"; "DOWN WITH CIA IMPERIALISTS"; "OUT WITH USIS." LATER THERE WAS A FRANTIC PHONE CALL FROM "DIRG" DISAPPROVING USE OF THESE THREE.
- 3. COMMENT: THE MESSAGE DID NOT GET THROUGH TO EVERYONE BECAUSE WE SPOTTED A FEW OF THESE SLOGANS DURING THE DEMONSTRATION. HOWEVER, MORE IMPORTANT, THE EPISODE PROBABLY REFLECTS FAIRLY ACCURATELY THE ONGOING CONFLICT BETWEEN WHAT INFLUENTIAL QUARTERS IN THE "DIRG" WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SAY TO US AND THE RESTRAINT SUCCESSFULLY URGED BY OTHERS IN THE NAME OF THE NATIONAL (ETHIOLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PIAN) INTEREST. THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE OF THE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON

THE PLACE OCCUPIED BY US MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN THIS ETHIOPIAN
PERCEPTION.
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Message Attributes

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Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, POLICIES, LAND REFORMS, LAND NATIONALIZATION

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